



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street  
DENVER, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

**JUL 21 2015**

Ref: 8ENF-UFO

CERTIFIED MAIL 7009-3410-0000-2600-8909  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Andrew Ritter  
Production Engineer – Rockies  
LINN Operating, Inc.  
1999 Broadway  
Suite 3700  
Denver, Colorado 80202

Re: Underground Injection Control (UIC)  
Notice of Violation:  
Loss of Mechanical Integrity  
Ute Tribal 8-21-54 Well  
EPA Permit ID# UT22195-08903  
API # 43-013-30829  
Brundage Oil Field  
Duchesne County, Utah

Dear Mr. Ritter:

During a routine inspection on May 19, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) observed an annulus pressure of 100 psi at the LINN Operating, Inc. injection well referenced above. The operator informed the EPA inspectors that the pressure had been bled off but had built up again. This pressure build-up is indicative of a loss of mechanical integrity. Pursuant to the above-referenced UIC Permit and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 144.51(q)(1) (40 C.F.R. § 144.51(q)(1)), you must establish and maintain mechanical integrity. A loss of mechanical integrity is a violation of this requirement.

Pursuant to the above-referenced UIC Permit and the regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 144.51(q)(2), you must immediately cease injection into this well. Before injection may resume, you must demonstrate that the well has mechanical integrity by passing a mechanical integrity test (MIT). You must also receive written authorization from the EPA.

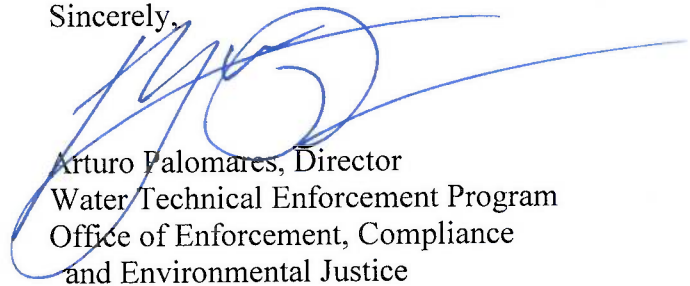
Within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter, please submit a letter describing what action you intend to take regarding the well, including a time frame in which you anticipate the work to be completed. It is expected that you will return this well to compliance within ninety (90) days of the loss of mechanical integrity.

If you choose to plug and abandon this well, the approved plugging and abandonment plan that is incorporated into the permit must be followed. Any deviation from that plan must be submitted to the EPA for approval prior to the plugging operation.

Failure to comply with the UIC regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 144 through 148 constitutes one or more violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h. Such non-compliance may subject you to formal enforcement by the EPA, as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, you may contact Gary Wang at (303) 312-6469. Please direct all correspondence to the attention of Gary Wang at Mail Code 8ENF-UFO.

Sincerely,



Arturo Palomares, Director  
Water Technical Enforcement Program  
Office of Enforcement, Compliance  
and Environmental Justice

cc: Shaun Chapoose, Chairman, Uintah & Ouray Business Committee  
Edred Secakuku, Vice-Chairman, Uintah & Ouray Business Committee  
Reannin Tapoof, Executive Assistant, Uintah & Ouray Business Committee